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Senate

The Senate met at 9:28 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Oh God of hope, who inspires in us authentic hope, we thank You for the incredible happiness we feel when we trust You completely. The expectation of Your timely interventions to help us gives us stability and serenity. It makes us bold and courageous, fearless and free. We agree with the psalmist, "Happy is he whose hope is in the Lord his God."—Psalm 146:5.

You have shown us that authentic hope always is rooted in Your faithfulness in keeping Your promises. We hear Your assurance, "Be not afraid, I am with you." We place our hope in Your problem-solving power, Your conflict-resolving presence, and Your anxiety-dissolving peace.

Father, the Senators and all who work with them face a busy day filled with challenges and opportunities. And in it all, we have a vibrant hope that You will inspire the spirit of patriotism that overcomes party spirit and the humility that makes possible dynamic unity. Give us hope for a truly great day of progress. In the Name of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, this morning there will be a period for morning business until 10 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the pending McCain amendment to the Interior appropriations bill for debate only

until noon. At noon, under a previous order, Senator FEINGOLD will be recognized to offer a motion to table the McCain amendment. If the amendment is not tabled, debate only will resume until 1:45 p.m., at which time the Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the McCain amendment. Following that vote, Senator GRAHAM of Florida will be recognized for up to 1 hour of morning business. Following the remarks of Senator GRAHAM, and assuming cloture was not invoked on the McCain amendment, the Senate will resume consideration of the Interior bill with amendments being offered and debated. Therefore, Members should expect rollcall votes throughout today's session, with the first vote occurring at approximately 12 noon.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with the Senator from Kansas, Mr. BROWNBACK, recognized to speak until 10 a.m.

CALLING FOR THE RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT CLINTON

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise today to address a subject that is both extraordinarily difficult and painful. In times of international turmoil, the Nation should rally behind our leaders, and we are in the midst of such times. But President Clinton's abdication of the duties of leadership has made this impossible. The report of the independent counsel is now under seal. When its contents are released to the Members of Congress, questions of criminal wrongdoing will unavoidably dominate this branch of government.

The Congress must determine whether the President will be impeached. I will not prejudge that question. As a Member of the body that will deliberate on this issue, I believe it is im-

portant to have access to all the evidence before reaching a conclusion on the issue of impeachment. Rather, I rise today to respectfully ask President Clinton to do the right thing for our country and resign from his office voluntarily.

There are three reasons why I believe this has become necessary at this point in time.

First, the President's conduct has all but destroyed his ability to lead as head of state and Commander in Chief.

Second, the President's actions have been corrosive to our national character and have debased the Office of the Presidency.

Third, President Clinton should spare our Nation the debilitating spectacle of impeachment hearings.

Over the last several weeks, we have witnessed the disastrous consequences abroad of diminished American leadership. There are some who have said that the President's conduct is purely a private matter. They are wrong. Private actions have public consequences. They do for all of us, but especially the President of the United States. In all of governance, but with foreign policy in particular, credibility is everything. Weakness is provocative; deceit can be deadly. When American foreign policy is unpredictable, our allies are unreliable, and tyrants are emboldened. These hypothetical dangers have become tragic realities.

Yesterday afternoon, I chaired a hearing on U.S. foreign policy in Iraq, for instance, and we heard from Jeane Kirkpatrick, former U.N. Special Representative; James Woolsey, former CIA Director; and Lawrence Eagleburger, former Secretary of State. What we heard was deeply distressing. It appears that the President's policy toward Iraq consists of paying lipservice to the importance of comprehensive and unrestricted weapons inspections and then preventing the arms inspectors from carrying out their mission.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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